

A site history of 41 Newlands Avenue, Newlands

Erf 97631 Cape Town, City of Cape Town, Western Cape



Produced by

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3 March 2026 (2nd Draft)

Glossary

Freemen/free burghers – ‘Freemen’ is a historical term for a person not enslaved or in serfdom, while ‘free burghers’ refers specifically to free citizens of a town or city. In the context of the Dutch Cape Colony, Free Burghers were former employees of the VOC granted land and the right to be independent citizens, which began the permanent European settlement of South Africa.

Market gardens – Early agricultural allotments (micro farms) granted by the Dutch East India Company (DEIC/VOC) to ‘freemen’ to grow and supply fresh vegetables, grain, meat and other produce to ships and the settlement.

Morgen – Old unit measurement relating to land (the equivalent of 0.8567 hectares)

Rood/s (Cape) – The equivalent of 1 011.71 m²

VOC – (Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie or the Dutch East India Company) was a powerful and wealthy trading company founded in 1602 that held a government-granted monopoly on Dutch trade with Asia. It was one of the first multinational corporations and a joint-stock company, which pioneered the concept of shareholders and stock markets. Beyond its vast trading empire in spices and other goods, the VOC also had quasi-governmental powers, allowing it to colonise territories (such as the Cape), build fortifications, conduct war, and enslave people.

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1. Introduction



Figure 1: View of the study block at right, with Palmboom Road at centre, and the first St Andrew's Chapel at left, built in 1857. (Jim Hislop)

The purpose of this report is to attempt to establish a background history with an emphasis on the social history of the study site, namely Erf 97631 Cape Town (41 Newlands Avenue, Cape Town), and its relation to the 19th-century St Andrew's burial ground.

In order to establish the timeline of this particular site, which formed a small part of the now defunct burial ground, the brief background history of its 'parent properties', including Papenboom estate, have also be investigated.

Where possible, the Deeds Office and other available archival sources have been consulted.

1.1. Site description



Figure 2: Current aerial survey showing the study site (Erf 97631) highlighted, and shown in relation to the surrounding neighbourhood. (Cape Farm Mapper)

The study site – Erf 97631 Cape Town – is situated on the east side of Newlands Avenue, Newlands, Cape Town.

Erf 97631 measures 857 square metres in extent and is bounded on its south-western edge by Erf 97632 (43 Newlands Avenue), on its south-eastern side by Erf 97658 (2a Palmboom Road, also owned by the study site's owner) and is abutted to the north by Erf 97630 (2 Palmboom Road).

2. Brief history of Papenboom

The original farming estate on which the study erf is situated



Figure 3a: The Papenboom homestead (left) and Van Reenen brewery (right) shown on a 1798 Lady Anne Barnard painting, looking from the vicinity of Newlands Avenue, up towards the mountain. (Balcarres Heritage Trust)

In 1695, in an effort to foster quality beer production at the Cape, trained brewer Rutgert Mensing was brought to the Colony from Deventer in the Netherlands by the Council of Seventeen, the directors of the VOC (Rosenthal 1961: 22). He was granted 30 morgen of land, named Papenboom, on the mountain slope uphill from the Liesbeek River, and fed by abundant fresh water (T158, 26.08.1695). Here he was permitted to plough, sow, plant, and establish a plantation, and by 1697 the brewery was reported to be operational (Rosenthal 1961: 22). On Mensing's death in 1702 his widow and son Willem took over the brewery, and presumably there was some sort of dwelling there in which they lived (Ibid: 22).

Eventually in 1713 Willem Mensing sold the Papenboom estate and brewery to Rudolf Fredrik Steenbok (T952, 08.11.1713), who would enlarge the property three years later with an additional 18 morgen of land (OCF 2, Vol. II – 296, 1716). By this time there were brewery buildings standing on 'the river side of Newlands Avenue, slightly north-west of the spring' (ACO 1996: 8). The following owner was a soldier (later a silversmith) from Alverdisen, Germany, Coenraad Feyt, who obtained the Papenboom property, now almost measuring 50 morgen, in 1725 (T1697, 27.08.1725).



Figure 3b: Detail of the same 1798 Lady Anne Barnard painting, south down what must be Newlands Avenue, with the curved entrance drive to Papenboom at right. The cottage at left stood in the vicinity of the study area, seemingly lying on the east side of Newlands Avenue, possibly on or close to the site of the longhouse/stable seen on Figures 13 to 15. (Balcarres Heritage Trust)

On his death two years later, his widow Maria Koster inherited Papenboom and continued brewing there (ACO 1996: 8). In 1735, then owner Godlieb Christiaan Opperman sold the estate to German-born Michiel Daniel Lourig (T2257, 23.08.1735). Another German immigrant, Hans Jurgen Honk, obtained Papenboom in 1738 (T2389, 06.02.1738).

In 1763 Johan Willem Hurter bought the property, along with 13 slaves, livestock and brewing equipment (T68, 18.11.1763).

Dirk Gysbert van Reenen – who would be instrumental in transforming the estate into the showplace it was in the late 18th century, by which time it was already more than a century old – then obtained Papenboom in 1783 (T5590, 22.08.1783). He increased the farmlands there from 48 morgen 20 square roods to an extensive 147 morgen 447 square roods, expanding the estate higher up the mountainside and widening it on both sides (De Kock 1972: 797). Van Reenen owned the monopoly to supply beer to taverns and country homesteads at the Cape and mastered the art of growing hops, where others had failed. This, and the good-quality mountain water he had access to, allowed him to brew quality beer and build up a fortune, enabling him to construct the ostentatious Papenboom mansion there, supposedly according to a design by Louis Michel Thibault based on that of Petit Trianon at Versailles, France (ACO 1996: 10).

In 1820, Papenboom passed to Daniel van Reenen, son of Dirk Gysbert (T217, 07.07.1820). By the mid-1830s, the once wealthy family had lost its brewing monopoly and needed funds, necessitating the subdivision of Papenboom into numerous lots (CF 4-33, 1836). This was how the portion off the south side of Newlands Avenue (south-west from the homestead) got separated from the original Papenboom estate. The Papenboom mansion burned down in 1838 and was completely destroyed (Law 2007: 11).

The end of the Van Reenen foothold at Papenboom was signalled by the transfer of ownership to Rudolph Cloete in 1837 (T96, 21.03.1837). This transfer included a 'small cottage, a brewery ... a store adjoining a building comprising stores and stables, and a building forming a row of labourers' cottages...' (ACO 1996: 10).

Cloete would die insolvent, and the trustees of his deceased estate disposed of the 'remaining extent of "The Brewery" or "Papenboom"', now measuring a much reduced 13 morgen, 190 square roods, to Anders Ohlsson, trading under the name of A. Ohlsson & Co, in 1887 (T219, 27.01.1887). It was part of Ohlsson's remainder of Papenboom (denoted as 'Lot Ohlsson') that would become the study site.

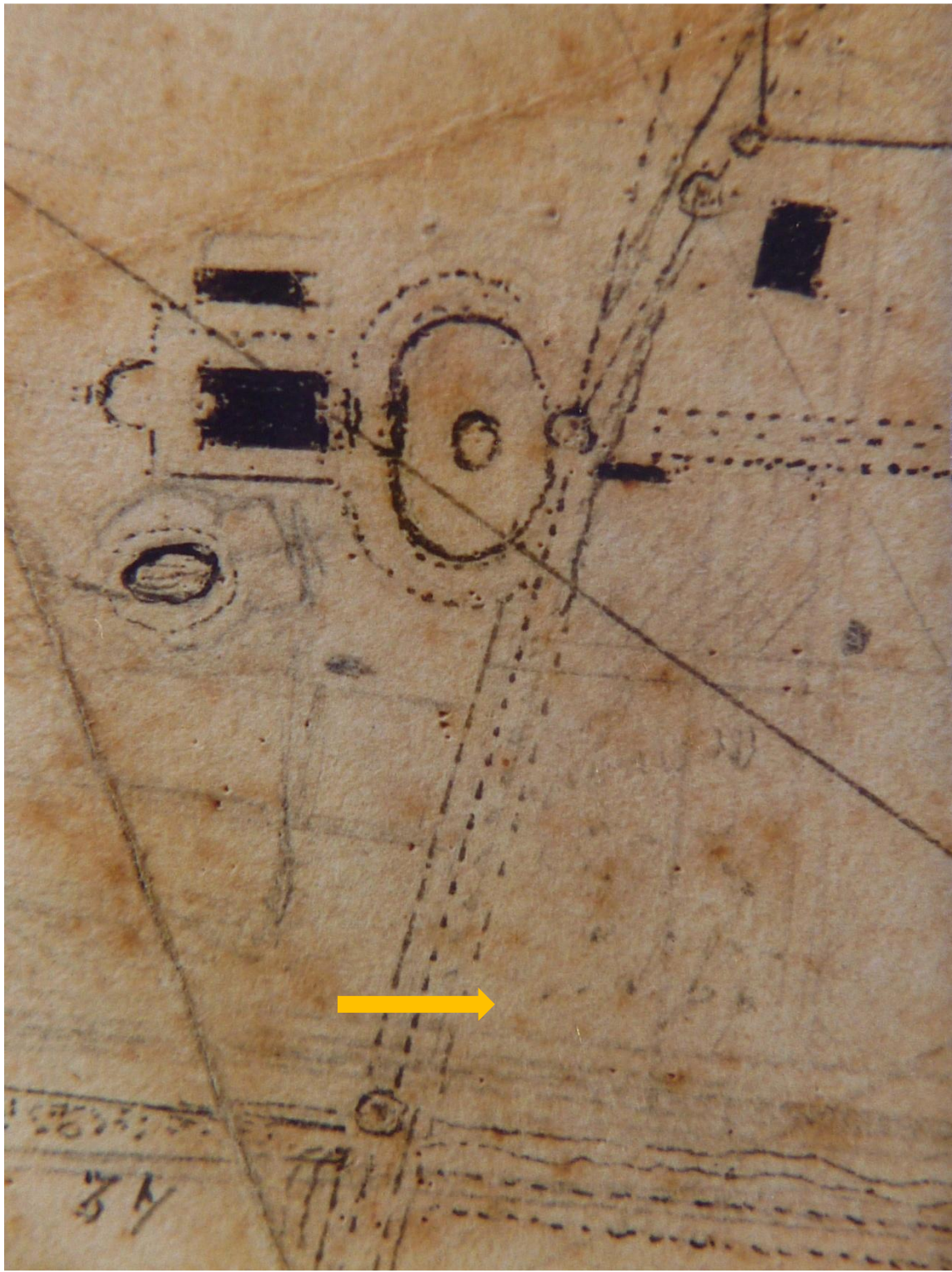


Figure 4a: Detail of the 1812 L.M. Thibault survey of the Papenboom werf. The homestead is the large building at top left, with the long brewery alongside it. The Newlands Stream is shown running along the bottom, and Newlands Avenue runs vertically at centre. The approximate site of the study area (then open farmland, orchards and plantations), is marked with an arrow. (WCARS)

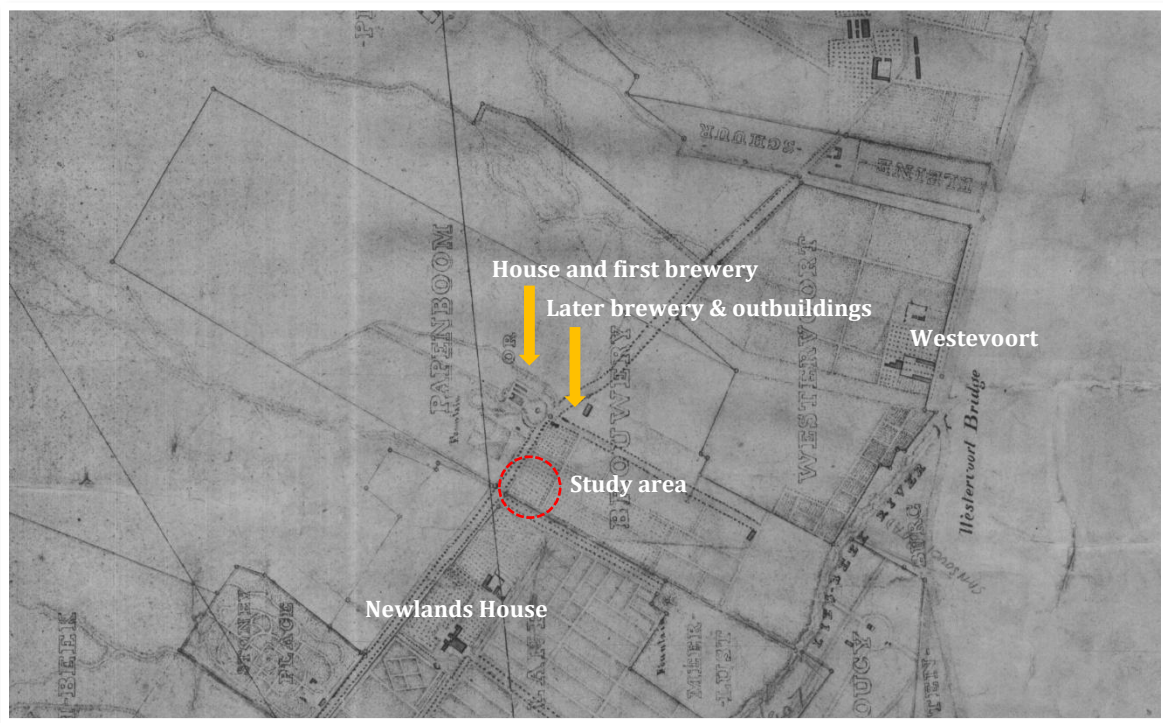


Figure 4b: L.M. Thibault's survey of Papenboom and surrounds, dated 1812, showing the study site's relation to Newlands House and Westervoort (Westerford, now the Southern Life site), as well as Papenboom itself, which was bisected by Newlands Avenue (running diagonally at centre). (WCARS)

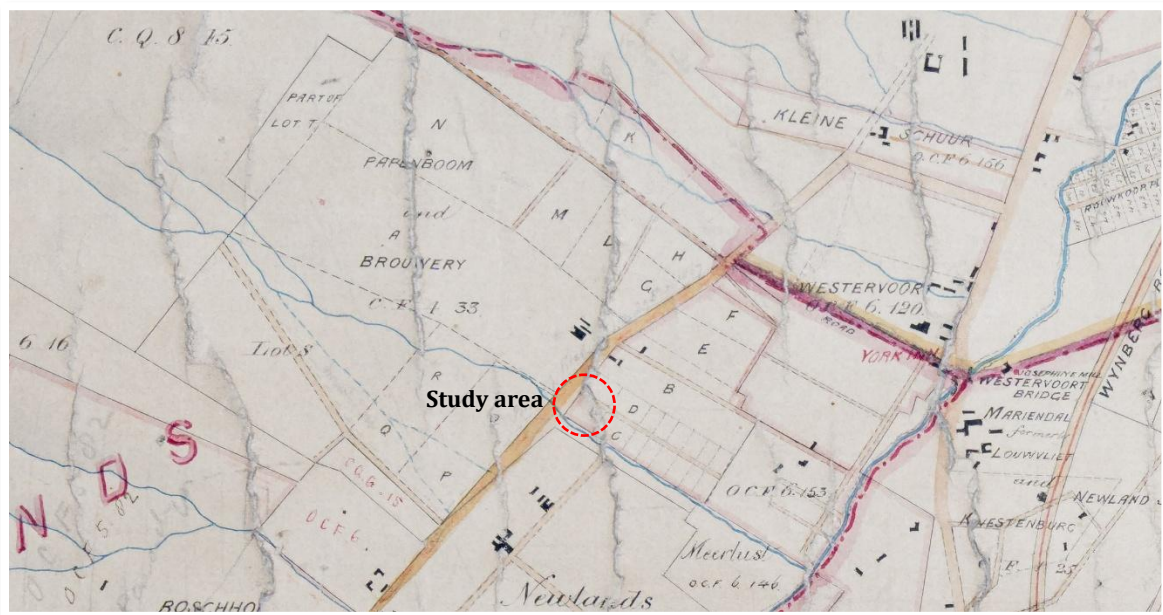


Figure 5: The study site shown in relation to the various portions of the subdivided Papenboom on an undated, circa late 19th-century map. The study area lay on Portion C. (WCARS M4 - 289)

3. Erf 48286

A portion of the subdivided Papenboom estate

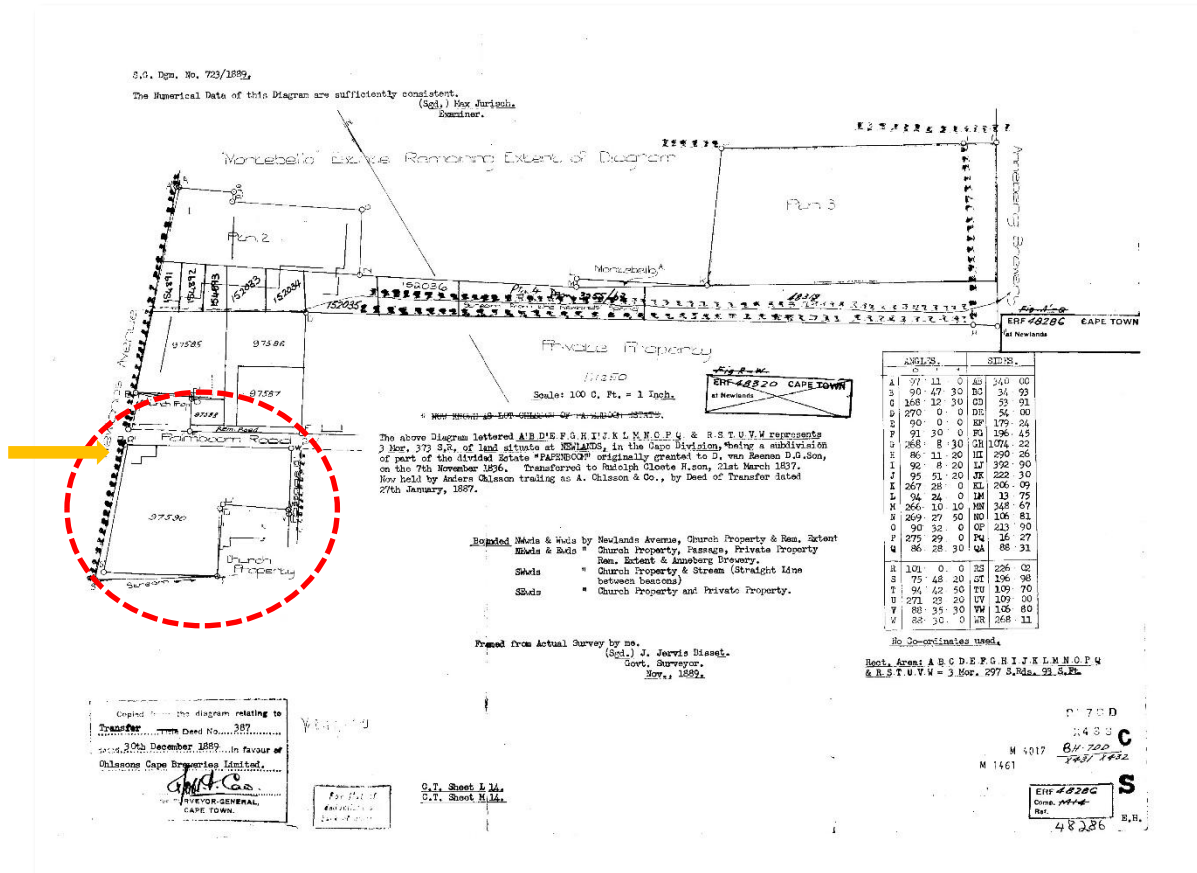


Figure 6: Survey diagram of Erf 48286, a portion of the subdivided Papenboom, lying on the east side of Newlands Avenue. The study block is circled, being denoted as Erf 97590 (SG Diag. No. 723/1889)

This property, a portion of Erf 47802 (a portion of the 'divided Estate Papenboom, subsequently named Lot Ohlsson') and measuring 3 morgen, 373 square metres in extent, was denoted as Erf 48286 in 1889 (Figure 6).

At the end of 1889, Erf 48286 was obtained under the name of Ohlsson's Cape Breweries Limited from Anders Ohlsson & Co (T387, 30.12.1889). The survey diagram of that year (Figure 6) shows the study block marked as 97590. By this time, a structure already existed on the north-east corner of the property (yellow arrow), on the corner of Palmboom Road and Newlands Avenue, either being part of, or perhaps preceding, the longhouse seen in early aerial photographic surveys from 1935 onwards (Figures 14 to 16), and possibly the same structure shown in Figure 3b. In addition, the second St Andrew's chapel (built in the 1860s, now standing on 2 Palmboom Close) is shown on separate 'church property'.

From 1916 onwards, Erf 48286 was subdivided into numerous portions over the following decades.

The longhouse (possibly a stable) is first shown in detail on the aerial photographic survey of 1935 (Figure 13). It lay on the east side of Newlands Avenue, on the study block, and extended as far as the southern edge of Palmboom Road.

The 480 Series map of 1944 to 1966 (Figure 16) shows the footprint of the longhouse, the structure being dovetailed into 40 Palmboom Road, the latter occupied in 1956 by Mrs M.A. Duck (Cape Times 1956: 219). This appears to have been Mary Ann Duck, wife of horse dealer/ranger/stable foreman for Ohlson's & Co, William Edward Duck (FamilySearch).

Seemingly the clearest photographic survey of the study block was the 1958 aerial survey (Figure 31a), which shows the various features of the by then disused graveyard, as well as the longhouse building, the chapel and what was then the 'Duck' house at 40 Palmboom Road (now No. 2). From this survey, we can see that there was a cemetery wall lining the Newlands/Lekkerwater Stream, and various mature trees growing within the graveyard (some old oaks survive within the study block). A curved entrance driveway is also shown leading off the top end of Palmboom Road.

These features remained extant on the 1968 aerial survey, although the graves had been 'exhumed' the previous year. The 1971 aerial survey unfortunately does not cover the south edge of Newlands Avenue, but does show the chapel area, still with open former graveyard land extending to the southern edge of Palmboom Road (Figure 17).

By 1980 (Figure 18), the study block had been entirely redeveloped with new houses and all traces of the old graveyard precinct were now gone, apart from the chapel, which was now a private house, and a few mature trees (some oaks).

4. The 'parent property': Erf 97590

A portion of Erf 48286

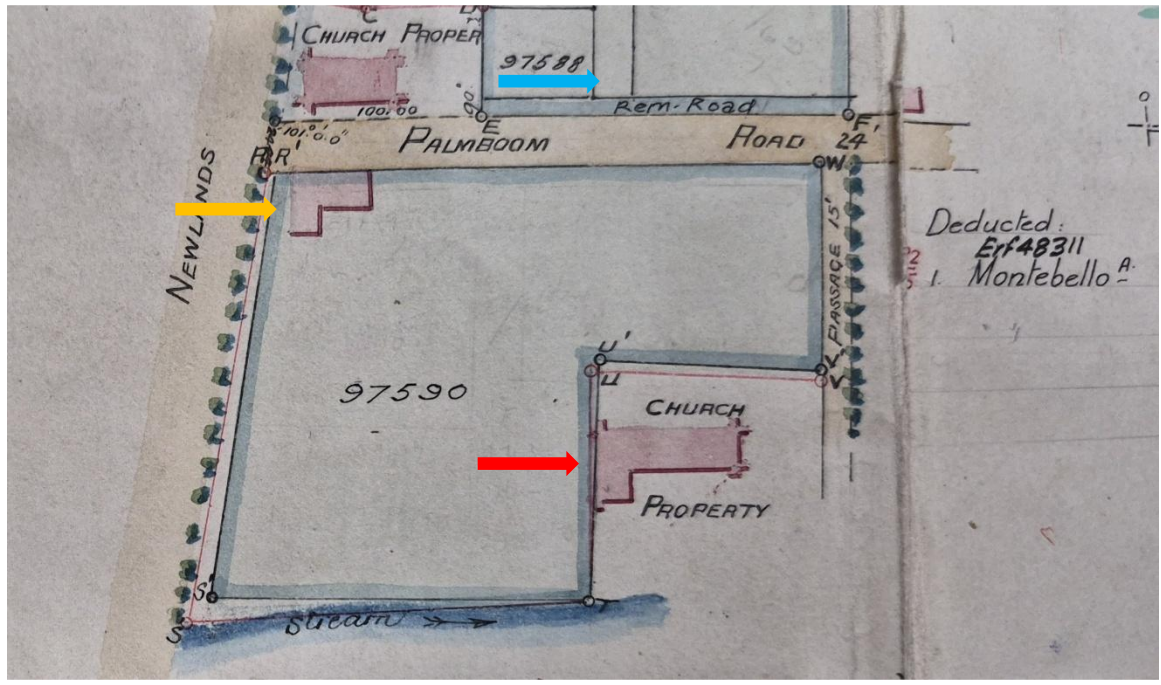


Figure 7: Survey diagram dated 1889 of Erf 48286, a portion of the subdivided Papenboom, situated on the east side of Newlands Avenue. The study block is shown, with its 1971 erf number overlaid (Erf 97590). (SG Diag. No. 723/1889)

The section of the 1889 survey diagram of Erf 48286 (Figure 7) shows the study block as it was in the late 19th century. The diagram reveals that there was already a structure standing on the south-western corner of Newlands Avenue and Palmboom Road, standing opposite the first (1850s) St Andrew's Chapel (shown at top left). This structure (marked with a yellow arrow) may have been part of the longhouse shown on the 1935 aerial photographic survey (Figure 14, and possibly in Figures 10a and 10b). The second St Andrew's Chapel is marked with a red arrow, and the Newlands Stream runs along the bottom of the diagram.

The edge of Newlands Avenue and is shown on the diagram to be lined with trees (oaks), some of which survive today

This particular property, a portion of Erf 48286 and measuring 5 450 square metres in extent, was denoted as Erf 97590 in 1971 (Figure 8), some years after the burial ground had been cleared. In November that year it was obtained by Ohlsson's Cape Breweries Limited (T31153, 23.11.1971). On the same day of transfer, Ohlsson's subdivided the property into seven separate erven.

These erven were:

1. Erf 97584 – 917 square metres – T31154/1971
2. Erf 97630 – 755 square metres – T31156/1971
3. Erf 97631 – 857 square metres – T31157/1971
4. Erf 97632 – 1 054 square metres – T31158/1971
5. Erf 97633 – 622 square metres – T31159/1971
6. Erf 97634 – 1 021 square metres – T31160/1971

The remainder of Erf 97590, now measuring a reduced 4 533 square metres in extent, was obtained by Rudolf Bock in 1971 (T31155, 23.11.1971).

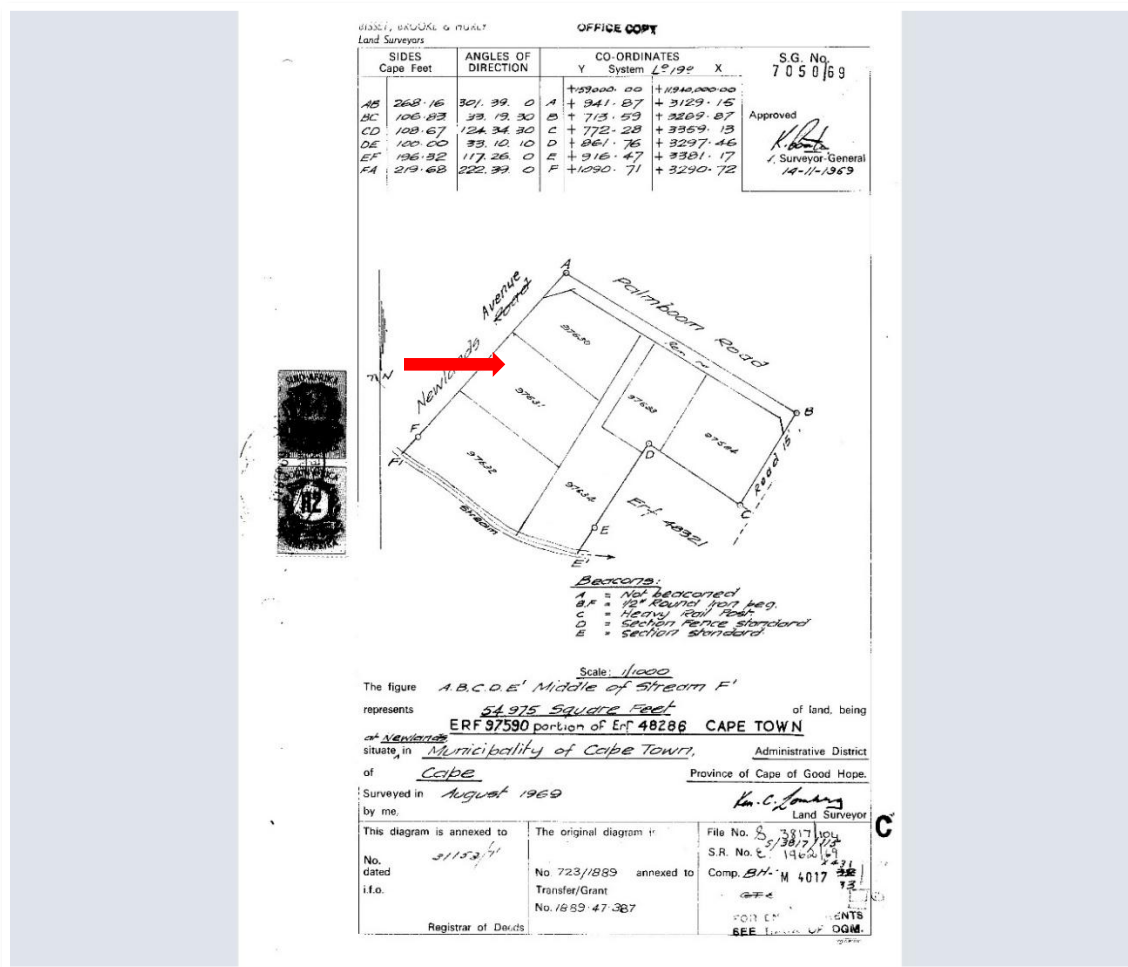


Figure 8: Facsimile 1969 survey diagram of Erf 97590, a portion of the subdivided Erf 48286, showing subsequent deductions, each labelled with the relevant erf number. This piece of land was bounded by the Newlands Stream, Newlands Avenue, Palmboom Road and Palmboom Close. The study erf is marked with a red arrow, being one of the deductions. (SG Diag. No. 7050/1969)

5. The study property: Erf 97631

A portion of Erf 97590

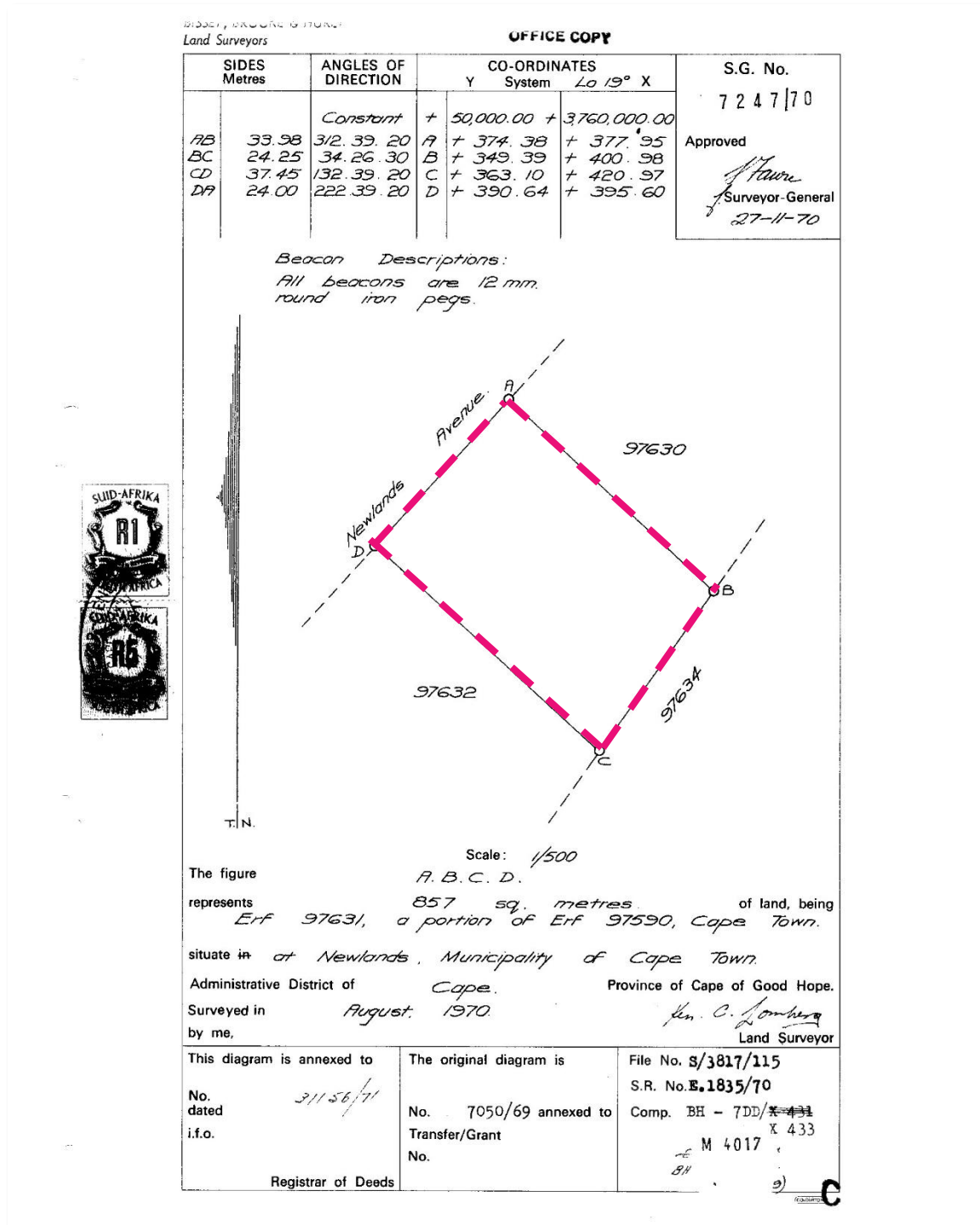


Figure 9: Facsimile survey diagram of the study property – Erf 97631 – measuring 857 square metres in extent, dated 1970. (SG Diag. No. 7247/1970)



Figure 10a: Early photograph (undated) of St Andrew's Church at 77 Kildare Road. It appears to show the longhouse in the background. (Ancestors South Africa Genealogy Research, Facebook Group)



Figure 10b: Detail of the same image showing the long building. Here a loft door and corrugated iron roof can be seen, along with what seems to be a roof vent. These features could be consistent with a stable, although what appears to be a low veranda is partially visible, indicating a possible conversion into a dwelling (the 1927 street directory lists unnamed Coloured people living there).

The study erf, being a portion of Erf 97590, and with the southern half of the 'longhouse'/stable standing on it (possibly shown in Figures 10a and 10b), was first surveyed as a separate property in 1970 (Figure 9). In 1971 it was obtained from R. Bock by 'The Stabelry' (sic) (Pty) Ltd (T31157, 23.11.1971). The latter name, seemingly misspelt on Deeds Office records, appears to support the possibility that the longhouse building had at some point been a stable.

Although the 1973 aerial survey is very indistinct, it appears to show that the longhouse/stable had been demolished by that time, and 2 Palmboom Road (formerly No. 40) had been built on the former site of the northern half of the building. The 1973 street directory does not list any residents on the corner of Palmboom Road and Newlands Avenue, or the eastern section of Newlands Avenue between Palmboom Road and Kildare Road at that time (Cape Times 1973: 262, 275), 4 Palmboom Road then being the uppermost dwelling on the south side of Palmboom Road, its resident being Mrs K. McKeever (Ibid: 275). The southern half of the former longhouse site (the study erf) remained seemingly undeveloped at that time, following the building's demolition.

The following owner was Hilton Thomas Forster, who bought Erf 97631 in 1975 (T6251, 18.3.1975). Forster would be a long-running owner, with the following change of ownership only occurring in 2004. It was seemingly during his ownership that the plot was cleared and a new T-shaped house was erected, sometime before 1980 (it is seen on the aerial photographic survey of that date, Figure 19). There is a possibility that bodies or human bones relating to the 'exhumed' graveyard were discovered during these building operations, but no record has been found of this.

In 2004, the property was obtained by Diane Ogilvy Wernars (T64502, 2004). In 2008 it was purchased by Ann Elizabeth Hill (T21663, 2008). Seven years later, Erf 97631 was obtained by Bernadette Maria Margarete Eick (T54338, 2015).

In 2024, the property was purchased in the name of the Panda Trust, the Trustee being Robert Lessem, owner of the neighbouring property - 2a Palmboom Road (T72441, 2024). It was during house renovation (underpinning) excavations in late 2025 that two burials were discovered, initially assessed as being likely of: 'a tall older female with mostly the appendicular skeleton being present, but many of the smaller bones and axial skeleton missing'. What was initially believed to be a possible child's grave had 'also likely been disturbed, with the contractors only likely noticing the cranium' (Brand 2025: 8).

Following the January 2026 collection of all other visible human remains from the site by ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd, the two bodies were actually deemed to be that of adults, 'evidenced by the lack of visible cranial sutures, the state of the teeth,

including some that had fallen out with the bones showing that ossification had taken place within the open sockets ... and that the 'chins suggested that one might be male and the other female'. It was concluded that 'Overall, we seem to have an adult female and a slightly larger adult male' (Orton 2026: 32). A further partial skeleton has since been found in February 2026, seemingly that of a small child.

Due to the degraded state of the human remains, and without more certainty about their likely sex, or age range when they died, it would be difficult to identify who these people were. It is also possible that these two burials were not 'official' and were not listed in the burial register, but assuming that they were indeed included in the register, and assuming one was a female adult, and one was a male adult, we can at least list the adult burials of both sexes and 'narrow it down' to one each of the following lists, transcribed from the burial register (only part of the child's skeleton was discovered, so it could be either male or female):

MALE ADULTS (101)

(Transcribed as accurately as possible with allowances for illegibility of the original burial register in places). Burials elsewhere not included

Burial No.	Name	Residence	Burial Date	Age
6	Thomas Hucknell	Newlands	Mar. 29, 1877	24 yrs 7 months
20	William Zeeman	Little Paradise	Jan. 31, 1878	63 yrs
24	William Leggett	Newlands	June 19, 1878	45 yrs
26	John Dockrell (Dockwill?)	Newlands	July 8, 1878	77 yrs
30	Robert Callender	Westerford	Sept. 6, 1878	76 yrs
37	William Estrays	Newlands	Jan. 20, 1879	36 yrs
44	Jacobus Johannes van Bork	Newlands	Aug. 10, 1879	52 yrs
52	Peter Charles Eckhart	Newlands	Jan. 1, 1880	42yrs
68	Christoffel Abrahams	Newlands	Dec. 12, 1880	19 yrs
72	William Allchia (?)	Newlands	Feb 1, 1881	64 yrs
85	Michael Brooker	Newlands	Oct 22, 1881	59 yrs
99	Jan Johannes Moses	Newlands	July 23, 1882	53 yrs
105	Adam Moritz	Newlands	Oct 26, 1882	25 yrs
107	Carl Saunders	Newlands	Nov 21, 1882	47 yrs
119	Rudolph Cloete	Newlands	Sept 20, 1883	21 yrs
122	James Dudley	Newlands	Dec 5, 1883	62 yrs
128	Frederick Wm. Palmer	Newlands	Jan 24, 1884	64 yrs
131	Francis Daley Hardy	Newlands	April 29, 1884	46 yrs
133	Adrian Geyer	Newlands	Aug 11, 1884	67 yrs
134	Benjamin Edward Prince	Newlands	Aug 15, 1884	30 yrs

150	Joseph (?)	Newlands	May 18, 1885	About 23 yrs
169	Richard Cole	Newlands	Feb. 1, 1886	72 years
182	Peter Williams	Newlands	Dec 12, 1886	24 years
192	Edward Thompson	Newlands	March 4, 1887	39 years
	Andrew Philip John			
196	Neezer	Newlands	April 21, 1887	23 yrs 10 mo.
201	John Christian Rooza (?)	Woodstock	July 20, 1887	19 years
211	John Clatil (?)	Capetown	Oct. 23, 1887	47 years
234	Edward Powell	Claremont	Feb. 12, 1888	52 years
	Daniel Andrew			
238	Johnston	Newlands	Feb. 18, 1888	24 years
247	Alfred Pack	Woodstock	May 7, 1888	44 years
	Henry James			
248	Chamberlain	Newlands	May 13, 1888	50 years
249	John Frederick Vorsman	Newlands	May 13, 1888	73 years
250	Edward Smith	Newlands	May 20, 1888	58 years
251	Henry Binks	Woodstock	June 8, 1888	72 years
263	John Charles Marks	Capetown	Oct. 2, 1888	34 years
265	William Barker White	Newlands	Oct. 16, 1888	25 years
269	Pieter Louw	Capetown	Oct. 22, 1888	68 years
280	William Farrell	Newlands	Dec. 18, 1888	46 years
282	Robert Everett	Newlands	Jan. 1, 1889	67 years
285	Charles Hirst	Capetown	Jan. 13, 1889	47 years
289	Adolph Edward Powell	Capetown	Feb. 15, 1889	52 years
				31 years, 6 months
315	Ferdinand Timmerman	Newlands	Nov. 17, 1889	31 years
317	Albert Frank Smith	Newlands	Dec. 10, 1889	29 years, 10 months
318	Martin Henry Bailey	Newlands	Dec. 16, 1889	27 years
319	William Huckell	Newlands	Dec. 25, 1889	57 years
320	George Ralph	Capetown	Jan 5 1890	50 years
338	Charles Wilson	Newlands	April 11 1890	20 years, 6 months
345	Hiram Lynch Paterson	Newlands	June 7 1890	48 years
361	Daniel Theron	Capetown	Feb 18 1891	46 years
363	Richard Fryer (?)	Newlands	Mar 22 1891	26 years
368	Frederick John Cooper	Newlands	June 15 1891	69 years
371	Stephen Nash	Kenilworth	Aug 4 1891	47 years
376	Richard Gwynn? Griffith	Newlands	Oct 18 1891	40 years
379	Christian Cornelis Clark	Capetown	Nov 15 1891	53 years
386	Jackeman Abrahams	Newlands	Jan 7 1892	
	Peter [illegible] Le			
399	Bruins	Newlands	July 7th 1892	44 yrs, 6 mo.
405	William James Chandler	Newlands	Nov 6 1892	46 yrs
411	Lewis Monroe (Moses?)	Newlands	Jan 10 1893	70 yrs

421	William Theron	Newlands	March 7 1893	48 yrs
425	Robert Henderson (?) David Charles	Newlands	May 13 1893	37 yrs
427	Stewart (?)	Newlands	June 10 1893	29 yrs
428	John Charles Barker	Newlands	July 1 1893	47 yrs
432	John Hawley (?)	Newlands	Sept 9 1893	46 yrs
433	Thomas Dudley	Newlands	Sept 16 1893	40 yrs
434	Andrew Moses	Newlands	Sept 17 1893	29 yrs
439	Florentian Dynsley (?)	Newlands	Nov 19 1893	32 yrs
444	John Cooper (Casper?)	Newlands	Jan 15 1894	75 yrs
447	Joseph Ryan Manson John (?) Christian	Newlands	Jan 22 1894	26 yrs
451	Neezer	Newlands	March 18 1894	71 yrs
453	Jacob Robinson Edward William	Off Avenue, Newlands Primrose Street,	April 22 1894	50 yrs
455	Hayelstead (?)	Cape Town	May 6 1894	33 yrs
457	Mr Lizo	Newlands	May 27 1894	65 yrs
458	Michael Seldon	Dublin, Newlands	May 31 1894	35 yrs
461	George Knott	Newlands	June 29 1894	31 yrs
472	(?) Cooper	Newlands	Sept 17 1894	21 yrs
473	James Sawyer	Newlands	Sept 30 1894	42 yrs
476	Tony Hartzenberg Charles Wesley/	Newlands	Dec 20 1894	96 yrs
477	Westby (?)	Newlands	Jan 3 1895	62 yrs
482	Alexander Robertson	Newlands	April 26 1895	Abt. 46 yrs
498	Robert Little	Cape Town	July 23 1895	86 yrs
513	James Robins	Newlands	Nov 20 1895	47 yrs
514	Job Daniel Eatwell	Newlands	Nov 24 1895	44 yrs
520	Bernard Abrahams	Newlands	Feb 6 1896	73 yrs
522	Charles Otto	Newlands	Apr 14 1896	44 yrs
526	John W. G. Manson)	Newlands	20 Jan 1896	35 yrs
534	William Moses (?)	Newlands	29 Nov 1896	Abt 40 yrs
535	James Lyall Paterson	Newlands	4 Feb 1897	70 years
536	Robert Osborne (?) William John	Newlands	9 July 1897	44 yrs
591	Wainwright	Claremont	May 24 1899	39 yrs
599	Gabriel Hanslo	Newlands	July 8 1899	51 yrs
601	Isaac Adams	Newlands	July 18 1899	81 yrs.
623	Andrew Berry Baatjies	Newlands	17 Mar 1900	30 yrs
640	John Fowler	Newlands	21 Sep 1900	78 yrs
643	Adam van Dieman	Newlands	21 Oct 1900	22 yrs
644	Michael Esau	Newlands	22 Nov 1900	65 yrs
651	John Wm. Silberbauer	Newlands	27 Mar 1901	63 yrs
707	John Isaacs	Newlands	2 May 1908	68 years

720	Frank Farnis	The Avenue, Newlands	Oct. 9, 1909	33 years
746	John Lewis EdwardS	Newlands	Aug. 21, 1914	62 years
758	Thomas Willey Frederick Reginald	Newlands	April 12, 1916	79 years
777	Speedy	Newlands	Oct. 13, 1918	43 years

FEMALE ADULTS (96)

(Transcribed as accurately as possible with allowances for illegibility of the original burial register in places). Burials elsewhere not included

Burial No.	Name	Residence	Burial Date	Age
21	Johanna Elizabeth Phillips	Newlands	April 19, 1878	38 yrs
27	Lydia Peterson	Claremont	July 8, 1878	56 yrs
54	Jane Maria	Newlands	Feb 18, 1880	55 yrs
61	Martha Amelia Whitey	Newlands	May 20, 1880	32 yrs
82	Mary Ann Wyngardt	Newlands	Oct 13, 1881	27 yrs
83	Catherine Payne	Newlands	Oct 17, 1881	32 yrs
100	Louisa Lee	Newlands	July 31, 1882	55 yrs
110	Maria Elizabeth Venn	Newlands	Dec 8, 1882	19 yrs
115	Elizabeth Hayward	Newlands	Jan 30, 1883	26 yrs
120	Charlotte Allekin	Newlands	Oct 16, 1883	33 yrs
145	Louisa Frederica Jones	Newlands	Feb 18, 1885	26 yrs
152	Esther Wentzel	Newlands	July 22, 1885	37 yrs
154	Christina Brittan	Newlands	Sept 9, 1885	50 yrs
168	Carolina Theresa Peterson	Newlands	Jan 31, 1886	30 yrs
171	Varie Edwards	Newlands	Mar 28, 1886	53 yrs
173	Georgina Cornelia Callander	Diep River	April 28, 1886	85 yrs
176	Julia Wilhelmina Simon	Newlands	July 13, 1886	62 yrs
183	Maria Elizabeth Matthews	Capetown	Dec. 25, 1886	26 yrs
184	Johanna Charlotte Mulder	Rondebosch	Dec 27, 1886	62 yrs
185	Rosina Bart	Newlands	Jan 2, 1887	62 yrs
187	Hannah McFarlane Anderson	Newlands	Jan 10, 1887	36 yrs
191	Sarah Calmeyer (?)	Newlands	Feb 14, 1887	59 yrs
193	Sarah Moses	Newlands	March 10, 1887	24 yrs
194	Anna Christina Johanna Knott	Newlands	April 10, 1887	48 yrs
195	Elizabeth Eatwell	Newlands	April 19, 1887	33 yrs

197	Helena Conway	Capetown	May 24, 1887	45 yrs
200	Clara Margaret Cooper	Newlands	July 3, 1887	65 yrs
210	Eliza Carruthers	Claremont Westerford,	Sept. 25, 1887	67 yrs
213	Isabella Manson	Newlands	Oct. 24, 1887	36 yrs
226	Ellen Jasper (?)	Capetown	Jan. 1, 1888	25 yrs
229	Rachel Ellen Burd	Capetown	Jan. 18, 1888	35 yrs
242	Mary Hendricks	Capetown	March 18, 1888	48 yrs
254	Caroline Carol (?)	Capetown	July 15, 1888	57 yrs
256	Sophia Power	Newlands	July 23, 1888	50 yrs
264	Hannah Harding	Rondebosch	Oct. 5, 1888	70 yrs
266	Caroline Cuthbert	Capetown	Oct. 19, 1888	43 yrs
268	Eiza Leenderts	Capetown	Dec. 20, 1888	49 yrs
272	Catherine Becker	Rondebosch	Nov. 8, 1888	55 yrs
274	Caroline Harris	Capetown	Nov. 24, 1888	40 yrs
275	Magdalena Sarah Boucher	Claremont	Dec. 2, 1888	65 yrs
279	Cornelia Elizabeth Neezer	Newlands	Dec. 17, 1888	66 yrs
288	Sarah Bresick	Capetown	Jan. 24, 1889	32 yrs
291	Eliza McMeeker (?)	Newlands	March 6, 1889	37 yrs
299	Eliza Martha George	Capetown	June 9, 1889	34 yrs
300	Catherine Ray Leake	Newlands	June 16, 1889	48 yrs
305	Jane Henrietta Marsh Maria Constantina (?)	Newlands	July 11, 1889	26 yrs
311	Dudley	Newlands	Sept. 26, 1889	63 yrs
325	Elizabeth Randall Susanna Catherina	Capetown	Jan 11 1890	39 yrs
332	Cerfontyn	Capetown	Feb 6 1890	32 yrs
336	Rosina Weedig	Capetown	March 6 1890	21 yrs
340	Maria Gheese	Newlands	April 17 1890	54 yrs
342	Sarah Ann Venn	Newlands	May 4 1890	19 yrs
344	Annie Adams	Newlands Somerset	May 18 1890	21 yrs
346	Wilhelmina Everitt	Hospital, CT	June 10 1890	71 yrs
354	Leonora de Lange	Newlands	Nov 6 1890	50 yrs
364	Ann Murray Little Johanna Magdalena	Capetown	May 13 1891	76 yrs
372	Nash	—	Aug 18 1891	71 yrs
378	Dinah Jones Marion Hannah?	Newlands	Oct 29 1891	19 yrs
380	Reynolds Catharina Christina	Illegible	Dec 6 1891	20 yrs
388	Simpson Wilhelmina Auriana?	Capetown	Jan 17 1892	54 yrs
395	Ackerman	Newlands	June 9 1892	48 yrs

400	Johanna Lee (?)	Newlands	July 8th 1892	34 yrs
403	Mary Ann Ruther	Newlands	Aug 19 1892	65 yrs
406	Ellen [Theunnis?]	Cape Town	Nov 7 1892	65 yrs
408	Leah Findlay (?)	Newlands	Dec 19 1892	64 yrs
417	Sarah White	Newlands	Jan 30 1893	45 yrs?
418	Ellen Penelope Jones	Newlands	Feb 8 1893	52 yrs
424	Margaret Elizabeth	Newlands	April 20 1893	46 yrs About
426	Elizabeth Johns	Newlands	May 22 1893	80 yrs
437	Sarah Ann Cooper	Newlands	Oct 1 1893	45 yrs
441	Johanna Craig	Cape Town	Nov 26 1893	59 yrs
446	Eleanor Cowan	Cape Town	Jan 22 1894	31 yrs
	Charlotte Maria	Main Avenue,		
454	Eiglaar (?)	Newlands	April 28 1894	33 yrs
456	Catherine Hallman	Claremont	May 13 1894	58 yrs
470	Christina Adams	Newlands	Sept 6 1894	56 yrs
	Maria Sophia Elizabeth			
486	Cranmer	Newlands	May 12 1895	39yrs
487	Anna Jordan	Newlands	May 29 1895	48 yrs
492	Elizabeth Faile	Cape Town	June 14 1895	50 yrs
497	Sarah Birch	Newlands	July 20 1895	42 yrs
504	Johanna Eckhardt	Newlands	Sept 10 1895	76 yrs
	Elizabeth Margaret			
510	King (?)	Cape Town	Oct 26 1895	51 yrs
	Jessie Petronella			
529	Beatty	Newlands	13 Sept 1896	29 yrs
596	Lena Jacobs	Newlands	June 15 1899	33 yrs
600	Sophia Louw	Newlands	July 15 1899	68½ yr
603	Rosa Scheuner	Newlands	Sept. 25 1899	56 yrs
	Hannah Wilhelmina			
630	Hogberg (?)	Newlands	16 Jun 1900	34 yrs
631	Clara de Kock	Newlands	28 Jun 1900	77 yrs
633	Mary Anne Stevens	Newlands	5 Jul 1900	88 yrs
646	Elizabeth Frieslaar (?)	Newlands	10 Dec 1900	43 yrs
652	Jacoba Roussouw	Newlands	18 Apr 1901	82 yrs
		Mount St,		
661	Maria Hart	Newlands	29 Nov 1901	29 yrs
662	Caroline Adams	Kildare Rd	19 Jan 1902	101 yrs
685	Elizabeth Willey	Newlands	28 Feb 1906	67 yrs
713	Elizabeth Anne Dudley	Newlands	25 May 1909	86 yrs
		Oak Avenue,		
722	Sabina Eberbach	Newlands	2 Nov. 1909	44 yrs
726	Dinah Sophia Chandler	Newlands	17 Jan. 1912	34 yrs
744	Wilhelmina Chandler	Newlands	Aug. 3, 1914	64 yrs
750	Sarah Isaacs	Newlands	Oct. 10, 1914	Over 60 years

6. Evolution of the study site

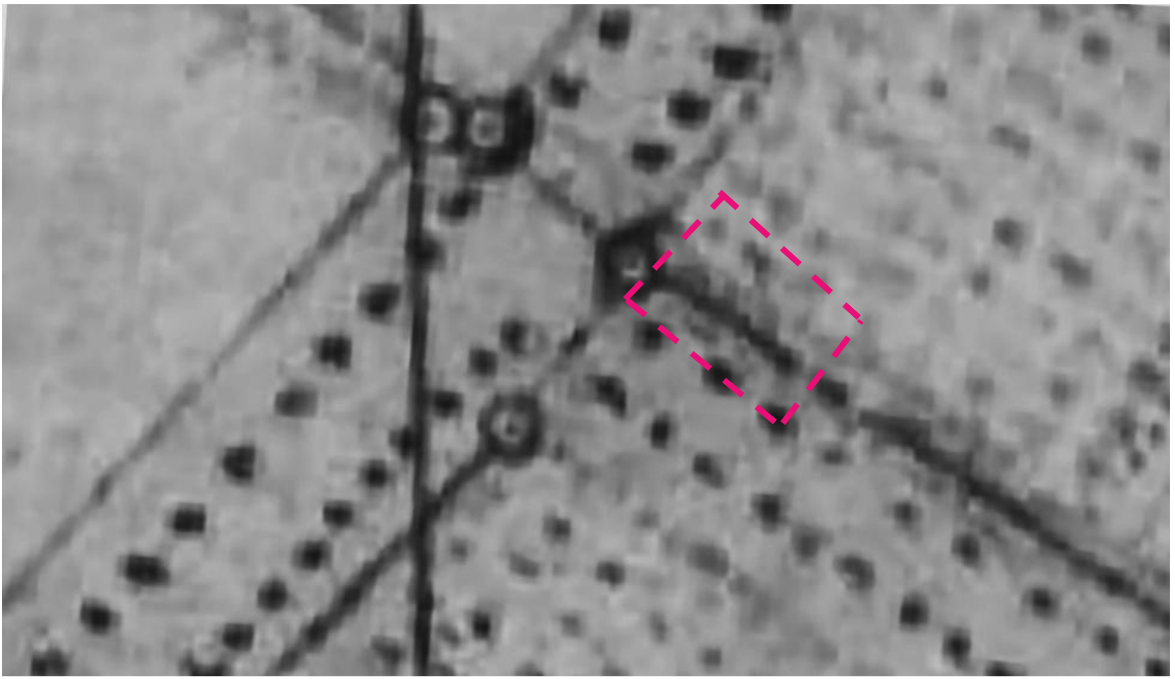


Figure 11: The L.M. Thibault 1812 survey of the study area. Newlands Avenue runs diagonally from bottom left to top right. (WCARS: M4-289)

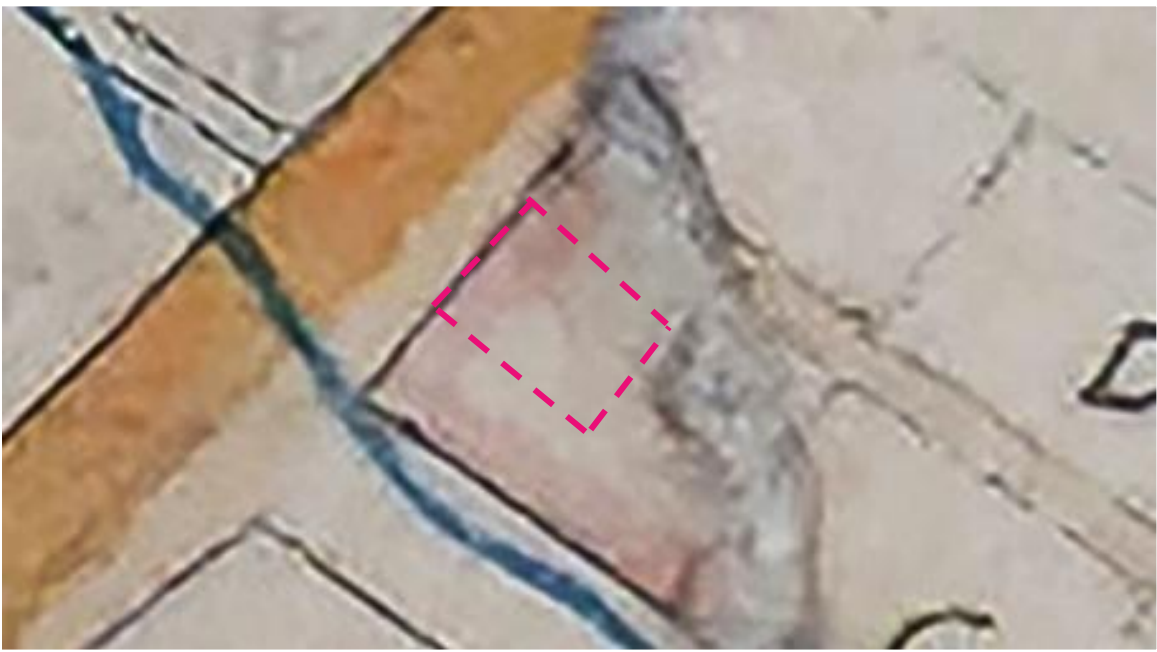


Figure 12: Detail of circa late-19th-century map, seemingly based on the Thibault survey. The Newlands Stream is shown, with Lot C of the subdivided Ohlsonn's property at bottom. (WCARS: M4-289)

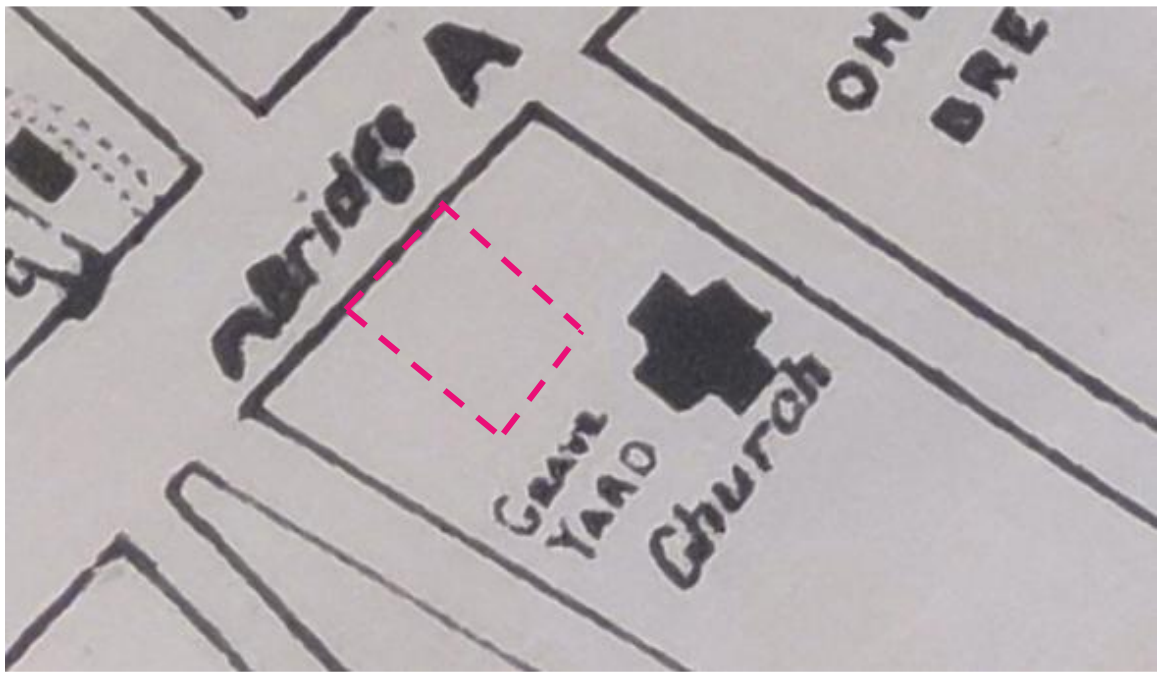


Figure 13: The 1906 Claremont Survey shows the second (1860s) chapel (church) and clearly marked graveyard. (CoCT Map Viewer)



Figure 14: The 1935 aerial photographic survey was the first to show the study site. By this time the cemetery was already out of use. The southern half of the longhouse/stable lay on the north-western edge of the erf, and mature trees still existed on the south-eastern half. There appears to be a formal graveyard/garden layout lying south of the second chapel (arrow). (CoCT Map Viewer)



Figure 15: The 1968 aerial photographic survey shows the site largely unchanged, although the graves had supposedly been removed the previous year. A small structure, perhaps a remaining burial vault, can be seen within the western edge of the study erf (yellow arrow). (CoCT Map Viewer)



Figure 16: The 1944-1966 survey shows the footprint of the remaining structures. To the south east of the study erf, a 'disused cemetery' is shown next to the second chapel (arrow). (CoCT Map Viewer)



Figure 17: The 1971 aerial survey was the first photographic survey of the site in colour. Unfortunately it does not show most of the study area, but does show the second chapel (arrow), and open area to the Palmboom side of the structure. (CoCT Map Viewer)



Figure 18: Although not clear, the 1973 survey seems to show the longhouse had now been demolished, but the site remained free of new development, retaining a large tree (oak?). (CoCT Map Viewer)



Figure 19: The 1980 aerial photographic survey shows that the study erf had now been redeveloped, with the current T-shaped house now constructed on it, and the surrounding erven also built on (CoCT Map Viewer)



Figure 20: 1997 aerial photographic survey. (CoCT Map Viewer)



Figure 21: The 2007 aerial photographic survey. (CoCT Map Viewer)



Figure 22: The 2025 aerial photographic survey, the year in which the first two burials were discovered. (CoCT Map Viewer)

7. St Andrew's Church graveyard and 1870s second chapel



Figure 23: The disused and overgrown Manson Road (Mountain) cemetery in Newlands Forest, just north of the study site, provides us with a visual reference to what the derelict St Andrews cemetery may have looked like in its final decades. The former private graveyard included bodies of Muslim and Christian Newlands residents, and some of the grave markers of poorer folk were simply made of wood fastened to iron stakes (as shown here), with painted inscriptions on them, while more elaborate slate tombstones of wealthier persons were also to be found there. (Jim Hislop)

The first St Andrew's Chapel (somewhat small, initially thatched and built of stone) was constructed at the top of Palmboom Road in 1857 to a design by Sophy Gray. Built on part of Papenboom, donated by Daniel Cloete for the purposes of building a church for the local brewers and brewery staff, it soon proved too small to provide this service adequately to the growing Newlands population. Initially, no cemetery land was available for the church, and the parishioners were mainly buried at St Saviour's Church in Claremont (Fransen 2004: 113-114).

By 1858, a non-denominational private cemetery already existed at the top of Manson Street. This was known by Newlands locals as the Mountain Cemetery (still existing in rather decrepit, overgrown form off the north side of Union Avenue, whose later construction cut Manson Street in two). This cemetery was used by local Newlands families, supplemented by other burial grounds in Claremont and Rondebosch (Langham-Carter 1994: 10).

But, by the last quarter of the 19th century, the local Anglican congregation were pressing for a dedicated cemetery of their own.

The Cape Argus reported in mid-June 1874:

Cape Argus 6 June 1874 (4a)

NEWLANDS BURIAL GROUND.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Newlands was held on Thursday evening at the “Bricklayer’s Arms Hotel,” to take into consideration the advisability of purchasing a piece of ground at Newlands for a burial-ground. After the usual preliminaries, the following resolution was carried :—“That a committee be formed for the purpose of selecting and purchasing a burial ground (at Newlands) for the inhabitants of Newlands.” The committee having been duly nominated and approved, the meeting was adjourned until Thursday, the 18th June, to receive the report, of the committee, and for further business. The chair was taken by the Rev. E. B. Prince. These were about forty persons present.

Figure 24: The need for a dedicated burial ground had become pressing by 1874. (Cape Times, 6.6.1874: 4a)

And so, the obtaining of land on the west side of Palmboom Road was partially motivated by the fact that more land was needed by the church to establish a burial ground. In addition, a chapel solely for White worshippers was desired, pre-empting the apartheid legislation of almost a century later (Langham-Carter 1994: 10). For these reasons, land owner Rudolph Cloete donated the strip of former farmland south of Newlands Avenue, bounded by the Newlands Stream and Palmboom Road. It was agreed that the new, second chapel would serve as a school and church hall, then be used for church services at a later date (Langham-Carter 1994: 10).

This new Anglican cemetery was eventually opened in 1871 ‘between the second chapel and the ravine’ (Langham-Carter 1994: 12). The second chapel did not initially have its own register, and births and deaths were therefore registered at St Saviour’s in Claremont, until 11 July 1876 when Newlands finally received its own burial register (Langham-Carter 1994: 12).

That year, on 28 April 1876, the Cape Times reported:

‘An interesting ceremony will take place on Tuesday next, in the dedication to its sacred purpose of the Chapel of St. Andrew’s Mission Chapel at Newlands, now happily completed. The dedication service will commence at 10 a.m., and a sermon preached by the Bishop of Cape Town, and there will be a celebration of Holy Communion. At evening at 6.30 the preacher will be the Dean. The following extract from the Church News of the 3rd instant describes the manner in which the work has been undertaken and carried out, as well as its financial position, which is not entirely satisfactory. We

trust that strenuous exertions will be made to relieve Mr Jobson of the heavy pecuniary responsibility which he has undertaken.

... The Mission Chapel ... is not all that could be desired, and after much deliberation it was decided to discontinue the use of the present buildings for Divine Services and to enlarge the infant school, but to a channel which is now entirely screened off during school hours and erect a vestry. If possible a burial ground will be provided in the immediate neighbourhood of the new Mission Chapel.

'In his anxiety to take advantage of the dry season for the building operations, Mr Jobson has rather nervously used his own means by carrying on the work before soliciting subscriptions, but as otherwise the work must have been delayed for a year, we trust he will not be a sufferer through the innovation. The Chapel will be ready for use, we are informed, soon after Easter.'

The chapel was described as measuring: *'70 feet from east to west, the length of the chancel being 25 feet, and the breadth 28, and the height from the floor to the ridge of the roof being 26 feet'*. The nave was reported to be *'furnished with hassocks and rush-bottomed chairs, a rood screen divides the nave from the chancel, and the fittings of the sanctuary have been procured for the most part from the well-known ecclesiastical warehouse of Messrs. Jones & Willis in London'*, but the needlework was *'being done by the ladies of the neighbourhood'*.

The financial strain felt by the congregation was revealed when the *Cape Times* reported that *'The total sum for which Mr Jobson has made himself responsible is not less than £550, of which he can hope to realise but small proportion in a poor district as that of Newlands'*. But as a proof that the parishioners were willing to *'give of their substance'*, it was stated that in addition to raising the £70 per annum at which they were lately assessed by the Synod, *'the offertory for the last twelve months amounted to £55, as against £35 in the previous year. There has also been an increase in the number of communicants, the acts of communion during the year being 200 as compared with 161 in the preceding year'* (Cape Times, 28.4. 1876).



Figure 25: The first St Andrew's Chapel /Church (three were eventually built) at the top of Palmboom Road. It was constructed in 1857 to a Sophy Gray design. (Jim Hislop)

The following month the below advertisement highlighted the ongoing need for addition funds:

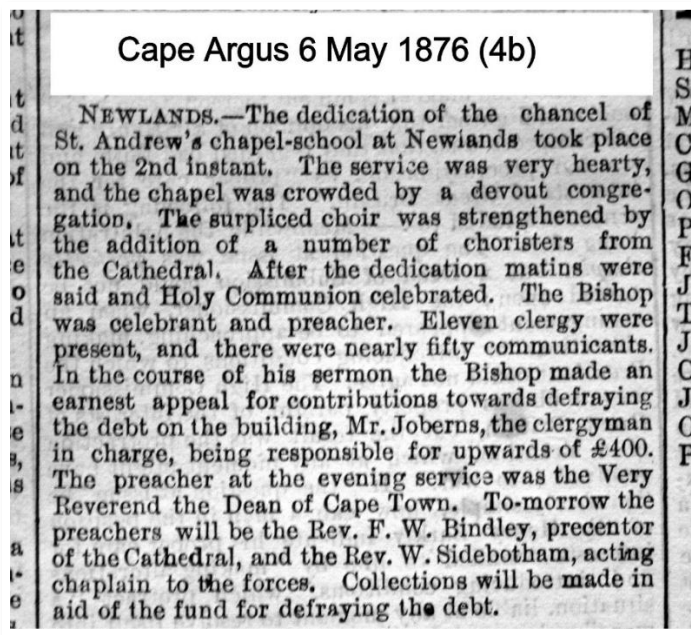


Figure 26: Funding has always been an issue with the church and its various buildings. (Cape Argus, 6.5.1876: 4b)

The first burial noted in the St Andrew's burial register was Robert Bullman Ellis, 13 years of age, buried on 11 July 1876. His young age was, somewhat surprisingly, not unusual. The subsequent 18 burials from 19 February 1877 to 29 January 1878, bar one (a 24-year old male – Thomas Mitchell on 29 March 1877), were all children, mostly under the age of five – many being infants (St Andrew's Burial Register ((SABR)): 1).

The infant mortality rate would continue to be high in the St Andrew's parish/Newlands area for the following years (infants being the main burials), the rate only dropping slightly by the early 1880s (St Andrew's Burial Register (SABR): Burials 1 to 19: 3). It is also possible that mainly children/infants were buried here because of limited space. A physician's report from the Cape Town Dispensary AGM quoted in the *Cape Argus* in late 1872 reveals that at that time, '*grave epidemics such as measles and scarlet fever, with their many attendant maladies, [had] been rife*' and that the '*great majority of the deaths would be found traceable to epidemics which [had] prevailed extensively among children during [that] past year* (Cape Argus 31.10.1872, cols. f and g).

The article mentioned the already overcrowded state of some of the burial grounds of Cape Town and its suburbs, and advised that the '*crying evil of intra-municipal interments [be] done away with*' (Coates believes the writer got confused between intra-mural burials – where the remains are interred in or under a building at a

location that is in active use for other purposes, and burials within municipal boundaries – intra/inter-municipal). The writer warned that *'In a few years the graveyards at Rondebosch, Claremont and other suburban villages would be as great an evil as the burial places in Cape Town'* (Ibid).

It is of interest to note that the Cemeteries Act of 1883 stipulated that each parish should also make provision for the burial of poor parishioners, of which Newlands had its fair share, judging by the high rate of child and infant deaths:

'The trustees of every such cemetery shall cause to be set apart a portion thereof for the burial of poor persons free of charge and shall cause to be buried there-in the body of any poor person upon production of an order for that purpose from the Resident Magistrate of the District' (Cemeteries Act 1883: 2380).

Due to the increasingly overcrowded nature of the St Andrew's cemetery by the late 1880s, it was extended in 1887, being consecrated by the Archdeacon of the Cape, T.F. Lightfoot, on 25 April that year (Langham-Carter 1994: 12). This temporary solution had been exhausted by 1896, when it was reported, somewhat alarmingly that:

'The graveyard at St Andrew's, Newlands, is quite full, and is devoted to the purposes of a playground for the children of the adjacent schools' (Port Elizabeth and Eastern Province Standard, 10 September 1896).

For its main reference, the newspaper used the colony's first medical officer of health, Dr George Turner's first annual report, which included a special standalone report by 'Dr Gregory' (Dr. A.J. Gregory, who assessed the state of burial grounds in the Cape Peninsula as a government health adviser). It addressed the rapid overcrowding of cemeteries, the health risks posed by poor sanitation, and the need for stricter regulations regarding burial space in the growing city. Seemingly referring to St Andrew's, which was the only Newlands burial ground mentioned earlier in the article (though not specified – it could alternatively be referring to the Manson Road cemetery), the article relates how:

'At Newlands it is difficult to say whether grimness or ghastliness predominates. A considerable part of the burial ground is the property of two canteen-keepers and an undertaker. The ownership is charmingly appropriate. The doctor, referring to the business partner, who, of course, is the undertaker, says: "This gentleman, who is said recently to have been removed to Robben Island Lunatic Asylum, besides being the business manager, seems also to have had a personal interest in the concern."

'Possibly some other undertaker may be found to purchase the third share of this lively concern. Still more harrowing is the doctor's report on still-born children. The only record in such cases, says this very conscientious and outspoken doctor, is "a

dirty block plan, from which it would appear that a number of plots are owned in the way of business by certain Capetown [sic] undertakers, and a greasy pocket note-book in which, when Mr. Knott, the undertaker and co-proprietor above referred to, was sufficiently sober to write, disjointed memoranda concerning the burial ground."

'In this cemetery – which it would be desecration to call 'God's Acre' – no regulations or rules exist, nor are any enforced in regard to the manner of burial, the private purchaser of the plot [suggesting this is the Manson Road cemetery being referred to] not infrequently digging the grave and performing the burial himself, although not an undertaker; the ground is unconsecrated, and burials often take place without any religious service whatever, or with only such as may be performed by the undertaker himself. We presume we may add, "when sober."

'Dr. Gregory adds that the omissions to register were chiefly in the case of infants and still-born children. In fact, the state of things as regards burials and cemeteries in Capetown [sic] appears simply to be a premium on infanticide' (Ibid).

Whether the newspaper report relates to the St Andrew's or the Manson Road cemetery, it is revealing in its exposing of the types of unsanitary burial practices that were occurring in Newlands and the Cape Town area at that time (late 19th century), very close to wells and other water sources used for human consumption. This would lead to many being subsequently closed down.

By 1897, the St Andrew's cemetery appears to have been used almost exclusively as a child's burial ground (with a few mainly elderly adult burials still being undertaken in between), but still for local Newlands residents, although some also came from, Cape Town (city presumably), Woodstock and Claremont (SABR, Burial Nos. 535-550: 68-70). One striking exception was the burial of the 101-year-old Caroline Adams of Kildare Road, the oldest person listed to be buried in the cemetery, who was interred in early 1902 (SABR, Burial No. 662: 84).

Following the addition of the third St Andrew's Church (in Kildare Road in 1894, designed by Sir Herbert Baker), the congregation had swelled, and with this increase in parishioners came an increase in burials. Although 19 November 1902 saw the last burial noted in the register 'in the cemetery', Langham-Carter recorded that 'there were said to have been seventy gravestones there of people who had died much later, in the influenza epidemic of 1918 (Langham-Carter 1994: 25). He notes that it was in that year that available hearses couldn't cope with transporting the amount of dead and mule-drawn Ohlsson's brewery wagons were used to supplement the shortage of transport for bodies (Langham-Carter 1994: 25). Despite Langham-Carter's quote, only five burials were noted in the register that

year, four being in the epidemic month of 'Black October' as it was dubbed (Fourie & Jayes 2021; SABR, Burial Nos. 776 to 780: 98, 99).

In fact, the burial register tells us that the final official burial in the cemetery was the 10-day-old infant Martin Rudolph Janssen on 10 September 1920, being the first burial since the epidemic year of 1918 (SABR, Burial No. 781: 99). Although Langham-Carter lists the number of total bodies exhumed from the graveyard at 'over 100', the burial register lists 781 recorded interments in total, bar one of these, John Colson (who died at 84 and was buried on 28 August 1917) who was interred at Plumstead, and not at St Andrew's (Ibid: 98, 99). This high number may explain why the cemetery was mainly used for child and infant burials in later years, due to the overcrowding and lack of space for adult coffins, and why it could no longer be used after 1920.

The 1927 street directory lists the northern part of the study site (longhouse area) as occupied by Coloured people, although no names are supplied (compiler/publisher Ken Donaldson did not deem it necessary to list non-White residents' names, unfortunately). He does list the occupant of the house on the south-western corner of Newlands Avenue/Palmboom Road (later 40 Palmboom Road), being W. Duck, presumably because they were White (Donaldson 1927: 203, 210).

The 1932 survey (Figure 28) shows how the Manson Road cemetery was located in line with the defunct St Andrews cemetery, lying directly uphill off Manson Road (which was almost an extension of Palmboom Road), and how the lower, St Andrew's, burial ground and first church were bounded by brewery buildings, private houses as well as the Montebello homestead.

The construction of Union Avenue, sometime later, cut off the former relationship that the two burial grounds had previously had, leaving the Manson Road cemetery isolated in Newlands Forest.

Following the mid-20th-century apartheid regime's forced removals of 'non-White' residents of the study area (the blocks bounded by Newlands Avenue, Palmboom Road, the Liesbeek River and Paterson/Kent Road/Governors Lane were proclaimed a White Group Area, reserved for ownership and future occupation by Whites, on 10 February 1961), the area became increasingly run-down and neglected (Van Riet 2016: 63).

By this time the cemetery was probably overgrown and unkempt, much like the church opposite, due to financial difficulties and the loss of congregation members due to forced removals. The 1958 aerial photographic survey, though, provides a fairly clear layout of the burial ground and its relation to the study erf (Figures 31a and 31b).



Figure 27: A rare photograph of local residents in the study area in c.1900. Showing the lower end of Kildare Road, where it crossed the Liesbeek River, the area to the top right was where the Newlands Stream ran downhill, abutted by the St Andrew's Cemetery. Both poor Coloured residents and wealthier middle-class Whites shared the area, and both were buried in the study cemetery as well as in the Manson Road (Mountain) cemetery, higher up the mountain slope, although White congregants wanted their own chapel by the 1870s. (Brian Davey)



Figure 28: This portion of the 1932 survey showing the relation of the cemetery to the Manson Road cemetery, and the adjacent brewery buildings, as well as Montebello. The Newlands/Lekkerwater Stream is seen running at an angle at centre, and the Liesbeek River is shown at right. (Cape Peninsula 1:25,000 map, Imperial measures, reprint of 1958, surveyed 1932, revised 1951, sheet I of IV).



Figure 29: Staff at the St Andrew's Mission School, before the forced removals of the apartheid era. (Jason Patrick Hanslo)

According to school historian Sigi Howes, 'In 1906 the School Board Act [had] forced the Newlands EC Mission School to split into the Newlands School (for Whites, in the older Palmboom Chapel) and the Newlands Coloured School (later just referred to as St Andrew's in Palmboom Rd). The latter was much bigger, and also had a progressive principal in Samuel Dudley. All the Dudley children attended the school ... The Dudley home was at the corner of Palmboom Rd and Dudley Lane, and the house is in fact still there. 1956 a new school was built for the community in Kildare {Road}, next to the church ... They were not able to enjoy the building for very long, because of the Group Areas Act. Between 1961 and 1964 the community was forcibly removed from Newlands. In 1968 the building became the Kildare Pre-Primary School' (Howes 2022). By the late 1960s most of the White-designated Newlands properties had indeed been subject to forced removals of 'non-White' residents and sold to White buyers, thereby displacing some 281 mostly Coloured families (Hill 1980:27). At a time when finances 'were at rock bottom' for the church in the mid-1960s, it was decided to sell off the disused cemetery to help raise funds to renovate the church buildings, which were now in a bad state of disrepair (Langham-Carter 1994: 55).

Langham-Carter's book quotes John Hodson, who relates that the 'sale of the cemetery was assisted by Mr. Basil Corder of Syfret, Godlonton and Louw who did the legal work'. This sale raised R15 000, which, 'saved the day' (Langham-Carter 1994: 55). Once the legal work was completed, the process of exhumation could begin, seemingly after a process of deconsecration.

The cemetery was finally 'cleared' of bodies in 1967 (Ibid: 25). However, the layout of the site appears to have remained relatively unchanged for the following few years. The Human & Pitt funeral service was used for the disinterment of the bodies. Because of the overgrown and derelict state of the cemetery, it was 'thought that

there were not so many graves', but more than 100 bodies were disinterred (although the burial register lists way over 700). The remains, which Hodson states were 'mostly tibia and brass handles of coffins' were put into boxes then taken to St Saviour's churchyard for reburial, although 'some graves had obviously fallen into the river in the past' and 'probably been eroded by the stream (Langham-Carter 1994: 25; 55-56). By this time, the supplementary graveyards of Manson Road and St Saviour's had also been closed, and Newlands residents now had to be buried in more distant cemeteries. For example, '*Members of the greatly increased Coloured community were buried at De Klip on Prince George's Drive*', Canon Barnes was buried in Plumstead, '*Pearce and Canon Lewis's remains were interred at Maitland*' and *Cape Times* founder F.Y. St Leger, a Newlands resident, was buried in Rondebosch 'at the St Thomas cemetery' (Langham-Carter 1994: 25).

Apart from providing funds for church restoration, the St Andrew's cemetery sale additionally financed the upgrading of the pre-existing school building and playground, which was then deemed to be '*up to Nursery School Association specifications*' (Ibid: 57).

As late as 2007, there were '*still a few discarded [grave] stones on the river bank*' and in the garden of the old second chapel (now standing on Erf 48321-RE/ 2 Palmboom Close), an old cypress tree had '*a short piece of chain embedded in its trunk*' supposedly being a '*remnant of a tethering post for the horses of people who attended church services*' (Law 2007: 30).



Figure 30: The second (1870s) St Andrew's Chapel off the opposite (south) side of Palmboom Road to the first Sophy Gray chapel. It is now a private home at 2 Palmboom Close. (Reproduced from Law 2007: 31)

8. Site images



Figure 32: The back garden of the study property showing initial excavations.



Figure 33: Trenches in the back garden behind the T-shaped house, in the garden where some of the human remains were found.



Figure 34: Line of stones in the front garden, roughly standing where the east wall of the longhouse stood. There is a possibility that these may either be part of the east wall foundations or have been repurposed from the longhouse structure for use in the garden.



Figure 35: Trenches in the back garden area. This area formed part of the cemetery precinct.



Figure 36: Looking approximately south down one of the trenches.



Figure 37: The Newlands/Lekkerwater Stream ravine, where some of the gravestones (and possible remains) supposedly fell due to erosion from the disused burial ground.

9. Palmboom Road and its residents



Figure 38: Upper Palmboom Road, with the first church at top right, and old cemetery precinct edge shown at left. (Jim Hislop)

Built on part of Papenboom, Palmboom Road was named in 1883, although it probably originated as one of the farm avenues on Papenboom that led up from the Liesbeek River to Newlands Avenue (Hart 1999: 47). Manson Road, with its non-denominational 19th-century cemetery, could be seen as an extension of Palmboom Road, and therefore originally part of the latter (Van Riet 2016: 50).

Palmboom Road took its name from Palmboom estate, a later market garden property with a mill already standing on it – obtained from Dirk van Reenen by Jan Willem Palm in 1819 – that was a deduction of Papenboom. Palmboom was bounded by the Liesbeek River, Newlands Stream and Anneberg Road, terminating at Peach Lane, i.e. east of the study block (Ibid).

A miller by trade, Palm used Van Reenen's mill whose watercourse led along the present course of Peach Lane from the Newlands/Lekkerwater Stream. He sold the property in 1826 (Ibid).

By 1900, there were four house residents listed in Palmboom Road: P. Wallis, G. Whitehead, R. Whitehead (living at Strawberry Lodge), Mrs Volkwijn, and the Bricklayer's Arms Hotel/Pub was also listed, with resident H. Berman (Juta & Co 1900: 402, 404, 422).

By 1956, there were numerous residents, with mostly 'White' surnames, although a handful of seemingly 'Coloured' surnames are also listed:

Left (south) side

—Main Street.

Howard-Ewen, S., "The Lemon Tree."

5 Dudley, S. T.

Castello, C., "Sevenoaks."

Leverton, S., "Harewood."

Jenkinson, J. E., "Annadale."

Ahmed, S.

Harris, M. N., "Rustig."

St. Andrews School.

40 Duck, Mrs. M. A.

—*Newlands Avenue*.

Right (north) side

—Main Street.

2 Swanepoel, Mrs. A. M.

4 Wiid, S.

8 Whiteleg, L. H.

Leon, P. A., "Epsom Downs."

Palmboom Nursery.

Taytasac, K. R., "Palmboom House."

Hestermann, V. C. W., "Rose Cottage."

Arendse, J. P.

Newlands Home for Animals.

Ingwersen, C.

St. Andrew's E.C. Girls' Mission School.

—*Newlands Avenue*.

Off Palmboom Road

(*Newlands*).

(*Ward 12*).

Hilley, S.G., "Riverside" (Cape Times 1956: 219).

Following the forced removals, the 1973 street directory lists the following residents of Palmboom Road:

Left (south) side

NEWLANDS AVENUE

1 Gow, J. A.

7 Vacant

11 Williams, C. A. J.

13 Hicks, L.
15 Warner, J. D.
17 De Kock, D. F.
19 Kelly, R. A.
25 Orford, M., "Leeuwenhof"
27 Rowberry, P. F.
29 Thomas, Dr. H.
29a Adams, D.
31 Standard, Dr. C. E.
33 Visser, D. Van Velden
45 Dalton, A. L.
47 Brink, Prof. C. Strauss
49 Mitton, Dr. G.
51 Behrmann, G. O.
53 Taylor, Mrs. M. C.
55 Rosser, N. J.
57 Gohl, B.
59 Palmboom City Council Depot & Playground
63 Richardson, B. C.
65 Schoop, R.
67 Smith, W. A.
69 Marzo, L. M. P.

MAIN STREET

Right (north) side

NEWLANDS AVENUE

4 McKeever, Mrs. K.
Robins, V. G., "Park House"
Parker-Forsyth, E., "Aspley Hall"

10 Goodwin, G.
12 Lindhard, N.
16 Obholzer, Dr. A. M.
18 Corry, T. M.

APPLE LANE

PEAR LANE

28 Van Hattum-Gast, Mrs. L.
30 Maskell, G. N.
34 Reynolds, P. H.

SEWBERRY LANE

40 Commerell, Dr. J. J.

44 Sharp, Dr. Ruby
46 Dawson, N. G.

PEACH LANE

50 Gobey, B. R.
52 Voslamber, R. A. W.
56 Leverton, Rev. H. G.
58 Thompson, F. R. L.
62 Stohr, P. S.
64 De Clercq, Mrs. A.

MAIN STREET

Off Palmboom Road

Cooper, Adv. W. E., "Riverside" (Cape Times 1973: 275).

By this time, it appears that the residents were, supposedly, exclusively 'White', judging by the surnames listed. It was from this time that the area became known/rebranded as Newlands Village, seemingly as an estate agent's ploy to sell properties there to wealthier White buyers (Law 2007: 71).

Since that time Palmboom Road has been somewhat gentrified, but the old St Andrew's Chapel on the top end retains its character as it did prior to the Apartheid era forced removals (Van Riet 2016: 70).



Figure 39: The study block, bounded by Palmboom Road and the Newlands Stream, with Newlands Avenue and Palmboom Close as its outer boundaries. The second chapel is seen with the green roof left of centre, while some mature trees that probably existed during the cemetery's existence are also seen. The study erf is marked with an arrow. (Google Earth)

10. Newlands/Lekkerwater Stream visual survey

Brief visual streambed survey on south side of the study site for possible remnants of the graveyard



Figure 40: View east (downstream) along streambed, showing the southern edge of the defunct graveyard area at left. The streambed remains uncanalised, increasing the chance of artefacts surviving.



Figure 41: View west, upstream, towards Newlands Avenue, with the southern edge of the former graveyard site seen at right.



Figure 42: Retaining wall made of river boulders on the north (graveyard side) bank of the stream.



Figure 43: Retaining wall made of river boulders, on the north bank of the stream.



Figure 44: Retaining wall below the deck of 2a Palmboom Road, on the approximate site of the southern cemetery wall.



Figure 45: A variety of old bricks, some retaining plaster, are visible on the streambed, possibly demolition material from the longhouse, graves or the cemetery wall.



Figure 46: A variety of old bricks, some retaining plaster, are visible on the streambed.

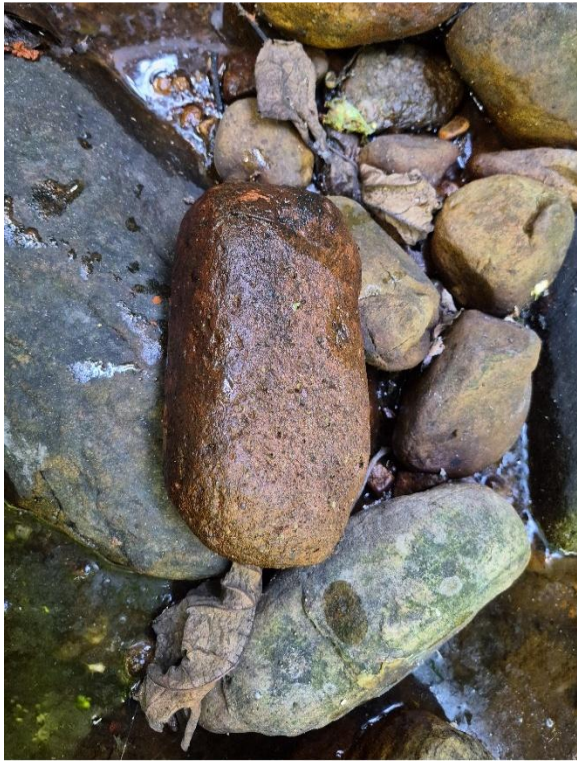


Figure 47: A variety of old bricks and rubble items are visible on the streambed. While dumping is a possibility, some items could be demolition material from the graveyard or longhouse.



Figure 48: Stone slab, partially broken, which resembles part of a small (child's) gravestone, but appears to have no visible markings on it.



Figure 49: Fragment of thin slate, with what appears to be limewash partially covering it.



Figure 50: *Rusted iron possible fencepost (from the cemetery wall or boundary fence, perhaps). Reverse side.*



Figure 51: *Rusted iron possible fencepost, facing side.*



Figure 52: *Fragment of thin cement.*



Figure 53: *Fragment of thin cement with what appear to be yellow brick fragments embedded.*

10. Conclusion



Figure 54: View of the northern end of Palmboom Road, showing the original St Andrews Church at left, and edge of the former graveyard precinct at right. (Jim Hislop)

The study site appears to have originally formed part of the Papenboom ('Brouwery') property, granted in the late 17th century.

For much of the 19th century it remained as open farmland/plantations/orchard land, before the study block was obtained with the aim of building a second chapel and establishing a graveyard there, both which were successfully completed in the 1870s.

The building standing on the study erf was built after 1973, following the clearing of the graveyard, and before 1980.

A public participation process should determine where the three bodies found on the property will be reinterred. The most likely place would be the St Andrew's Church premises in Kildare Road, something that the current parish leader, the Venerable Mkhusele Lujabe – who has been involved in recent community and building initiatives – has expressed an interest in implementing. A memorial centre that is being established on the St Andrew's Church premises in Kildare Road could potentially also provide a venue for reflection, displaying of information relating to the old cemetery, and who was buried there between the 1870s and 1920s.

Any items from the 'visual river survey' (or subsequently found in the streambed deemed as possible graveyard remnants could also be displayed at the centre.



Figure 55: St Andrew's Church memorial wall, relating to more recent deaths, in Kildare Road. This could be a possible place for re-interment of the three burials discovered on the study site in late 2025 and early 2026 (Jim Hislop)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Stewart Harris – Papenboom images and references

Jeanne Coomer (St Andrew's Secretary) – Church archival search and point of contact for the church

Jayson Orton – Further archaeological information via WhatsApp, 2025, 2026

Elizabeth Marima (Archivist) and Margaret Atsango (Research Librarian, Africana Collections & Services), William Cullen Library, University of the Witwatersrand) – Digital copy of St Andrew's burial register

Peter Coates – Archival newspaper articles

Sigi Howes – Information relating to the study block, St Andrew's schools and churches, Facebook (Cape Historical Society Facebook Group post, 20 April 2022)

Susan Mann – Access to the study erf and additional information

Venerable Mkhusele Lujabe (St Andrew's Church) – Permission for archival and burial register access